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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: April 5, 2000
Subject: American Chemical Services Site, Lake County, Indiana
From: William Simes, Federal On-Scene Coordinator, Region V
To: K. Mould, OSWER, Washington, D.C. (703) 603-9133
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II. BACKGROUND

POLREP No.: 1 (Initial and Final)
START Date: March 27, 2000
Site ID #: 05J7
Response Authority: CERCLA
State Notification: IDEM
Demobilization Date: March 28, 2000

III. SITE DESCRIPTION

A. Site Location:

The American Chemical Services (ACS) site (ID# 05J7) is located at 420 S. Colfax Avenue in Griffin, Lake County, Indiana, latitude 41° 30' 38" N and longitude 87° 25' 58" W. ACS operated a chemical manufacturing facility which involved solvent recovery during the early 1960s. Land use in the area is predominately residential and industrial with a wetlands area located north of the Chesapeake and Ohio railway located west of the site. The ACS site is bordered on the east by Colfax Avenue, on the north by the Chesapeake and Ohio railway properties, and on the south and west by the town of Griffith landfill and Public Works.

B. Description of Incident:

In 1992, a Record of Decision (ROD) was completed and a Consent Agreement was signed by the ACS Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP). Remedial Design and some remedial actions have begun on the site since. While installing a subsurface barrier wall, ACS's remedial contractor recently uncovered buried drums near a 30-inch pipeline. The Lakehead Pipeline, owner of the pipeline, reported that the pipeline provides 40 percent of the Chicago area's crude oil demand. The buried drums are approximately 10 feet from the pipeline, which is 10 feet within the easement. The PRPs contacted the Remedial Project Manager, Kevin Adler, to inform him that they did not have the

expertise to recover the drums without damaging the pipeline.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Actions Taken

On March 27, 2000, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) William Simes, the Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E&E) Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) member Greg Kozak, and the Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor Earth Tech, Inc. (ET) met onsite to conduct removal activities. Also meeting onsite were Sean Grady of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and Peter Vagt of Montgomery Watson, Inc. (MW). The ERRS crew consisted of one foreman and three cleanup technicians. Equipment including a backhoe was also mobilized to the site. During removal activities, START periodically monitored the area with a photo ionization detector (PID). A total of four 55-gallon steel drums were discovered at a depth of approximately 2.5 feet. No evidence of contaminated soil surrounding the discovered drums was observed. Further, no drum lids were discovered and the drums were apparently filled with clean material. Therefore, the drums were probably empty when originally buried. Prior to departing the site, crew members staged the four discovered drums on-site.

On March 28, 2000, U.S. EPA OSC Simes, START member Kozak, and the ERRS crew returned to ACS site to conduct further removal activities. Also meeting onsite was Peter Vagt of MW. The ERRS crew consisted of one foreman and three cleanup technicians. During removal activities, START periodically monitored the area with a PID. Four additional 55-gallon steel drums were discovered at a depth of approximately 3 feet. No evidence of contaminated soil surrounding the discovered drums was observed. Also, no drum lids were discovered and the drums were apparently filled with clean material. Therefore, the drums were probably empty when originally buried. A total of eight 55-gallon drums were overpacked, secured, and staged on-site for future PRP sampling activities. All excavations were backfilled and all equipment was decontaminated prior to departing the site.

C. Next Steps:

None

V. COSTS

	CURRENT COSTS	BUDGETED DOLLARS	DOLLARS REMAINING
USEPA	\$1,600	\$3,160	\$1,560
START	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$500
ERRS	\$3,290	\$14,250	\$10,960
TOTAL	\$4,790	\$16,250	\$11,460

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

All wastes were turned over to the PRPs for final disposal